



Trainee Role Description

Grower (Plants and Production) - 2 posts

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, OrganicLea's 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own market stalls, box scheme and local restaurants. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. In 2021 we produced over 10 tonnes of produce, including 2 tonnes of salad leaves, featuring 136 different varieties of leaf.

A placement within the production team at Hawkwood: this traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills as a market gardener in a community setting - supporting production activity during and outside of busy and diverse volunteering and training tasks. The trainee will learn the skills required to manage the production at Hawkwood, to integrate that with the needs of participants and take on responsibilities for growing plants and produce over the growing season.

Details of the role

- Unpaid voluntary role
- Time commitment: 1 or 1.5 days per week for 9 months

We are asking for a one day per week commitment, but different days at Hawkwood have a different flavour, structure and learning objectives, so it is **preferable** that the candidate's working day changes during the course of the traineeship.

Ideally, the trainee would be available to work on a Wednesday, and able to change days to a Tuesday for a three month "block". We realise this may not be possible/ practicable for every candidate, so the detail of the "day change" can be worked out prior to the role commencing.

There is the option of doing a 1.5 day per week traineeship for candidates willing and able to work on Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the traineeship.

- Dates: Wednesday 6 April - Wednesday 14 December 2022
- Hours: Wednesdays / Tuesdays 9.00am - 5.00pm (with later finish up to 2 Wednesday evenings a month for workshops and 'production walk'.)
- Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
- Occasional weekend commitments: We ask that all trainees help out at one of our seasonal Open Sundays.

Supported by:

- monthly check-ins with an OrganicLea mentor
- monthly discussion and learning workshops
- travel expenses, within London, if needed
- bicycle repairs and servicing whilst-you-work for cyclists
- a seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided on Wednesdays

OrganicLea is a registered company limited by guarantee no. 5135926
Growing site: Hawkwood Plant Nursery, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford E4 7UH
Distribution hub/Registered office: Hornbeam Centre, 458 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 9AH
Web: www.organiclea.org.uk Email: info@organiclea.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8524 4994 (Hawkwood)

To apply please:

1. Indicate clearly which role(s) you are interested in. If you would like to apply for more than one role please list your preferred 3 in order.
2. Complete and return the OrganicLea application form and monitoring form, available on our website.
3. Send to: debbie@organiclea.org.uk or post to the Hawkwood Address for the attention of Debbie Ladds, OrganicLea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH.

Deadline for applications: 9pm on Friday 18 February 2022

Interview date: Wednesday 9 March 2022

For more information about the role, start by contacting Debbie at: debbie@organiclea.org.uk (Tuesdays and Fridays are good contact days).

Main objectives

- To learn about and assist with all aspects of propagation in the glasshouses
- To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting and maintaining the vegetable growing areas of the Hawkwood site
- To assist with harvesting and preparing produce in accordance with the needs of the OrganicLea stall, box scheme or other independent outlet
- To provide support for the vegetable production at Hawkwood
- To provide support for the volunteer programme

Main Activities**Growing**

- Formulating propagation media
- Raising plants from seed
- Irrigation
- Planting and maintaining glasshouse crops, field vegetables, salad leaves, green manures and companion plants
- Organic weed, pest and disease management
- Harvesting schedules and techniques
- Undertake other activities in support of OrganicLea, as appropriate

Harvesting

- Cutting/picking produce to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control
- Preparing produce according to 'product descriptions'
- Weighing, packaging, sealing, labelling and organising dispatch

Working with volunteers

- Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
- Lead tasks with volunteers

Person Specification**Essential**

- Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice

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- Some experience of growing
- Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
- Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
- Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
- Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
- Commitment to and understanding of the aims of OrganicLea

Desirable

- Experience of working with volunteers
- Level 1 Horticulture qualification